

REMARKS

Preliminary Amendment Previously filed

Applicants have submitted a Preliminary Amendment on September 22, 2003. In the Notice of Allowability mailed December 2, 2003, the Examiner has not acknowledged the receipt of the Preliminary Amendment or indicated the entering of the Preliminary Amendment. Applicants are submitting herewith a courtesy copy of the Preliminary Amendment, dated September 22, 2003, along with the facsimile transmission receipt. The Examiner is requested to consider and enter the Preliminary Amendment.

For the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 22, 2003, Applicants wish to further clarify that the term "thermoplastic" in Claims 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 and 32 is supported, for example, by the disclosure on page 4, line 12 to page 5, line 3 and the term "thermoplastic" in Claims 26 and 28 is supported, for example, by the disclosure on page 8, lines 7-14 and Claim 10.

Amendment after Allowance (Currently filed)

The term "cyanoacrylate", which was added in the Preliminary Amendment dated September 22, 2003, is cancelled in Claims 11 and 18 in the present Amendment,

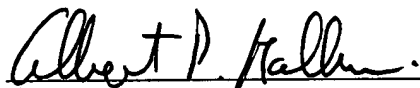
The Examiner is requested to consider and enter the Amendment after Allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 9, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Albert P. Halluin", is written over a horizontal line.

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